

Mayor's Infrastructure Finance Committee: Charge to the Committee

October 3, 2002

Overall Committee Charge Statement

The Mayor's Infrastructure Finance Committee shall seek consensus on a realistic comprehensive financial package ensuring the maintenance of existing public infrastructure and the delivery of future public infrastructure to facilitate community growth. With the assistance of three work groups operating under the Committee's direction, the work groups shall explore and evaluate:

- ☐ Infrastructure Cost Savings/Efficiencies
- ☐ Finance Options
- ☐ State Legislation

The Committee shall be responsible for preparing an integrated package of recommendations for the Mayor and City Council that combines the work products of the three work groups.

In undertaking these tasks, the Committee shall be sensitive to the effects its recommendations may have on Lincoln's citizens, businesses, neighborhoods, economic development, and people of all income groups.

Key Working Assumptions

1. The City-County Comprehensive Plan shall serve as the Committee's framework for the assumed future rate of population growth, the direction of growth, and the phasing of growth.
2. The Committee shall seek a **balanced funding approach** affirming the maintenance of existing infrastructure, supporting projects of broad community benefit, and providing for the timely expansion of planned infrastructure. Ensuring the timely and adequate funding for each of the three elements is vital and should be reflected in the Committee's findings. In meeting these goals, maintenance of existing facilities should be given primary consideration, followed by projects of broad community benefit (e.g., South and East Beltways, Antelope Valley), and finally, infrastructure improvements that further planned urban growth.

3. The Committee shall limit its review of public infrastructure to streets and highways, water, wastewater, storm water, and park facilities.
4. The Committee shall set time horizons for a financial package covering the next 6 years and a longer range strategy as appropriate.
5. The Committee shall assume future financial contributions from impact fees consistent with the Mayor's August 26, 2002, proposal, as amended.

Work Group Charge Statements

As noted earlier, the Mayor's Infrastructure Finance Committee shall be organized around three work groups that will address the issues of efficiency, finance options, and State legislation. The Chairs of these three work groups shall report the results of their efforts to the Infrastructure Finance Committee, which shall have final authority in determining all recommendations to be sent to the Mayor and City Council. Each work group shall be chaired by a member of the Infrastructure Finance Committee and shall be composed of Committee members and community members selected by the Committee with the Mayor's review and approval.

The expected work tasks and products of each work group are described below within the respective work group charge statements.

Work Group: Infrastructure Cost Savings/Efficiencies

The role of this work group is to consider ways to make certain that City infrastructure is planned, programmed, and constructed in the most reasonably efficient manner possible. In completing this assignment, the work group shall:

- Organize and conduct a one-day public-private sector charrette to brainstorm ideas for ensuring the efficient delivery of public infrastructure.
- Examine the timing, prioritization, staging, and phasing options for infrastructure improvements. In so doing, recognize the ultimate facility should be constructed with minimum disruption to the community and surrounding area, with least additional cost. Short term cost savings should not be sought at the expense of greater long term costs to the City.

- **Prepare a series of recommendations based on the charette to the full Committee outlining ways for enhancing the planning, programming, and construction of City infrastructure.**
- As appropriate, the work group may undertake follow up research at the discretion of the full Committee to clarify recommendations pertinent to the work of the full Committee and the other work groups.

Work Group: Finance Options

The role of this work group is to formulate a comprehensive financial program for closing the City's long-term funding gap for urban infrastructure maintenance and improvements. In completing this assignment, the work group shall:

- Validate the City's funding needs for maintaining and providing streets and highways, water, wastewater, stormwater, and parks over the next 6 years and longer term, and the financial gap that exists in meeting these needs.
- Review and evaluate viable financing tools (i.e., utility rates, revenue bonds, general obligation bonds, financial incentive packages, wheel tax, utility connection fees) to provide adequate and predictable funding for the timely provision of public infrastructure.
- **Prepare a six year and as appropriate longer range financing and capital improvements staging plan for review by the full Committee that provides a comprehensive solution for funding the City's infrastructure maintenance and development needs.**

Work Group: State Legislation

The role of this work group is to consider and recommend possible changes in current State legislation to facilitate and enhance the funding of infrastructure for the City of Lincoln. In completing this assignment, the work group shall:

- Review current State and City enabling legislation governing the provision of public infrastructure facilities and development.

- Examine current Federal and State funding and formula guidelines influencing allocation and disbursement of funds.
- Discuss with the City lobbyist and other appropriate staff the procedures and protocol governing the drafting, submission, and legislative review of City-sponsored bills, and, as appropriate, request staff to consult with other communities and jurisdictions on potential legislation.
- Collaborate with the Finance Options work group in reviewing major areas of funding opportunities and legislative needs at the State level.
- **Prepare a list of possible State legislative initiatives for review by the full Committee for recommendation to the Mayor and City Council.**
- As may be requested the Mayor, consult with the Mayor and City staff during the 2003 Unicameral session on the status of proposed legislation and implications for the evolving long-term funding strategy being produced by the full Committee.

Time Frame and Deadlines

To ensure the results of this effort are available for use during the City of Lincoln's Fiscal Year 2003-2004 budget deliberations, the Committee's overall work is to be completed no later than June 1, 2003.

Several interim products should be completed no later than mid-December 2002. These include a list of recommended modifications or additions to current State law, initial findings regarding the efficient delivery of infrastructure based upon the one-day charette, and agreed-to future funding needs.

Consultant Support

The work of the Committee will encompass a wide range of financial, engineering, and legal issues. The Committee may find that during the course of its deliberations, support in the form of outside consultant assistance may be desired in order to satisfactorily complete the charge. This assistance may include support involving the technical aspects of various proposals under consideration or in crafting a broader Committee consensus.

The Committee should convey to the Mayor areas in which they believe such outside consultant support would be beneficial to their work. The Mayor shall take these requests into consideration and, in consultation with the private sector, determine the appropriateness of the requests.

City Staff Support

The Committee will be supported by staff from the City of Lincoln. Staff members from the Mayor's Office, Economic Development, Public Works and Utilities, Finance, Planning, City Attorney's Office, Parks and Recreation, Urban Development, and the Lincoln Electric System will be available to the Committee. The City's Federal and State lobbyists also will be available through the Mayor's Office to respond to specific informational requests. City staff will make every effort to respond to Committee inquiries in a timely and direct manner. All such requests for staff assistance should be directed through the Chairs of the Committee or work groups to the City's Project Manager.

Meeting Location and Format

All Committee and work group meetings shall be held in accessible public buildings and shall be open to the public. Public notice of all meetings shall be posted in accordance with State law.

Discussion at Committee and work group meetings shall be limited to members of the Committee, members of the work groups, staff, and consultants assisting the process. The Committee and work groups shall provide time on their agenda on a periodic basis for receiving public comments in accordance with State and City laws and regulations. The Committee may set time limits for individual speakers during these comment periods before the Committee and work groups, but must ensure a fair and equitable allocation of time among all speakers.